

Gallatin County FSA Office
3710 W Fallon St, #D
Bozeman, MT 59718
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County Committee

Larry Dyk, Chairman
Terry Triemstra, Vice-chair
Maynard Flikkema, Member
Jodi Camp, Advisor

FSA Office Personnel

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Kristi Parker, PT
Jamie Fossum, PT
Norbert Kern, Fieldman

Dates to Remember:

NAP Pull-Off Date – *add exact date for your county*

May 15-Aug. 1 – Primary nesting season (CRP)

May 31 – Final loan/LDP availability date for Corn, Dry peas, Grain sorghum, Lentils, Mustard seed, Safflower seed, Small chickpeas, Soybeans, and Sunflower seed harvested in 2006

July 16 – Acreage Reporting Deadline

August 3 – Final date to enroll in the 2007 DCP program



Gallatin County News

April 2007

2007 Final Year of DCP Program Under 2002 Farm Bill

The sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program has been extended from June 1 to August 3, 2007.

The decision to extend the deadline was made as a result of earlier computer networking problems that hampered FSA's ability to process DCP enrollments. Enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period began on October 1, 2006.

The extension applies only to the enrollment time frame and does not extend the annual DCP contract period beyond September 30, 2007. A late-file fee of \$100 will be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 but no later than September 30, 2007. Applications filed after September 30, 2007 cannot be approved.

Direct Payments are based on a farm's historical commodity bases and yields. For crop year 2007, an advance payment of 22 percent may be requested with the final payment to be issued in October. Counter-cyclical payments are made to producers when the effective price for eligible commodities is less than the target price.

We encourage you to sign up early to avoid the \$100 late file fee. Contact the office to set up an appointment.

2007 Acreage Reports

It is time to certify your planted acres and all acreage reports need to be accurate and filed by the final reporting date of July 16, 2007. Certification is mandatory if any of the following apply:

- ◆ You receive DCP payments
- ◆ You have acres enrolled in CRP
- ◆ Loans or LDP's will be requested; including Wool, Mohair and Honey
(All cropland on the farm must be certified to be eligible for DCP and loan program benefits).

- ◆ Acreage is covered by NAP

All acreage reports need to be filed by the final reporting date of **July 16, 2007**. Failure to report accurately may result in loss of program and price support benefits. Map packets with appointment times will be mailed out to operators soon.

Conservation Compliance

Federal regulations discourage the production of crops on highly erodible cropland unless the land is protected from erosion by an approved conservation system. Status reviews are conducted to ensure producers follow a conservation plan on highly erodible land. In addition to the highly erodible land, a person may not plant an agricultural commodity on wetland converted after Dec. 23, 1985, or convert a wetland to make agricultural production possible after Nov. 28, 1990.

Failure to comply with these provisions will cause a person to be ineligible for USDA benefits. County Committees may review noncompliance situations for good faith and provide relief in approved cases.

Loan Deficiency Payment Requests (LDP) on CCC-633ez

The 633-EZ form is a two-part loan deficiency payment request that allows producers to 1) Indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits before losing beneficial interest in the eligible commodity; and 2) Submit a request for an LDP at any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest.

By signing the first page of the EZ form, the producer indicates his or her intentions to receive LDP benefits. This one page covers all counties and all eligible harvested commodities for the entire crop year for the individual, joint operation or entity identified on the form.

Once the first page of the form has been signed and submitted, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 for all harvested commodities, or page 4 for wool, mohair and unshorn pelts. The LDP request can be submitted at any time during the loan availability period, before or after losing beneficial interest.

Page 1 of the EZ form must be signed before beneficial interest in the commodity is lost. Once beneficial interest is lost the commodity is ineligible for an LDP even if beneficial interest is regained. All producers are encouraged to submit page 1 of the EZ for each crop year whether or not they plan to subsequently request a loan or LDP.

Mixed Grain/Hay Loan LDP Eligibility

USDA does not establish loan rates for mixed commodities. A mixed commodity harvested as grain that does not meet grading standards is not eligible for a loan or Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). A mixed commodity that is hayed or harvested as silage is not eligible for an LDP.

Eligibility for Grain/Oilseeds/Pulse Crops Harvested as **Grain** – If a mixed commodity is harvested as grain and a farm-stored loan or LDP is applied for, a sample of the harvested crop must be taken to a licensed Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) laboratory for grading, at the producer's expense. Loan or LDP eligibility will be determined based on the results of the sample.

Eligibility for Grain/Oilseeds/Pulse Crops Harvested as **Other Than Grain** – If the mixed commodity is harvested as hay or silage, there is no test to determine the percentage of each commodity in the mixture to establish the grade and class. Therefore, crops planted in a mixture and hayed or harvested for silage are not eligible for an LDP.

A commodity planted as a nurse crop with alfalfa may be eligible for an LDP if a full seeding is planted and the commodity is reported as the intended use for grain or forage. The County Committee may require documentation to support the seeding rate.

Hulless Varieties Ineligible for Loan/LDP

For 2007 and subsequent crop years, hulless barley and hulless oats will not be eligible for and LDP or marketing loan. These commodities do not meet the definition for their respective crop as provided in the U.S. standards for barley and oats. This makes them ineligible.

Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior FSA county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments.

All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, contact the county office staff for additional information.

Farm Loans for Minority Groups

FSA can make direct and guarantee loans to groups considered as minorities under USDA definition. These groups include women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Funds can be used to buy and operate family-sized farms and ranches.

Individuals and entities primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-sized operations may apply. A family-sized farm is considered to be one that a family can operate and manage itself. Applicants must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance. Contact the FSA office for exact criteria.

Repayment terms for direct operating loans depend on the collateral securing the loan and usually run from 1 to 7 years. Interest rates for direct loans are set periodically according to the Government's cost of borrowing. Repayment terms for direct farm ownership loans are up to 40 years. Interest rates for guaranteed loans are established by the lender. Applications for direct loans are made through the local FSA office. Applications for guaranteed loans are made with the lender.

Attention Gallatin County Producers

Community Health Partners in Livingston and the Gallatin Community Clinic in Bozeman have received a federal grant to provide health services for seasonal and migrant agricultural workers. It recognizes that 1) less than 15% of seasonal farm workers access health care, 2) agriculture is the second most dangerous occupation in the U.S., and 3) the majority of farm workers do not receive health insurance and have little money for out of pocket expenses.

These clinics are for everyone regardless of income, insurance, or ability to pay. Documentation of citizenship is not required to utilize the services. Fees are determined on a sliding scale based on income. Contact the following clinics for further information.

- Community Health Partners
126 South Main St
Livingston, MT
(406) 222-1111
- Gallatin Community Clinic
214 E Mendenhall St
Bozeman, MT
(406) 585-1360

2007 Crop Loan Rates for Small Chickpeas, Dry Peas and Lentils

The 2007-crop dry pea loan rate for Montana is \$6.12 per cwt. The lentil loan rate for Montana is \$10.97 per cwt. USDA determined that there is insufficient reliable market information to establish regional loan rates for small chickpeas. The national rate of \$7.43 cwt applies for all producing areas.

Marketing assistance loans provide producers interim financing after harvest of their crop to meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but who agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain a loan deficiency payment (LDP).

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Important Dates to Remember

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eAuthentication Contact Information

The USDA eAuthentication Help Desk Support contact information has changed.

Contact information is as follows:

- For routine needs email: eAuthHelpDesk@ftc.usda.gov
- For emergencies: 1-800-457-3642

The hours of operation are 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. eastern time Monday through Friday.

USDA provides their customers an opportunity to do business electronically 24 hours a day seven days a week over the Internet. To do business electronically a Level 2 account is needed. Should you need assistance in setting up this account, contact your local FSA office or logon to the Montana FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt, select "Online Services" and click on "Create an Account Page".

